

If I could make just one other comment, Mr. Speaker, and this is not aimed at the gentleman from Ohio but at the Republican leadership in general; I want to express how angry our caucus is about the way the tax reconciliation bill was handled right before the Memorial Day recess.

□ 1300

Members were kept an additional 2 days here, waiting around for a vote. In fact, I think many know that we were kept waiting all night with a vote promised every hour.

Now, I know these issues are difficult and sometimes they take turns that people do not expect in the negotiation process; and by the way, it would have been nice if the Democrats were invited to have participated in the negotiating process which we were kept from. But having said that, let me just say, the American people were also blocked from any knowledge of what was in the bill that would affect our Nation, perhaps for the next 2 decades. Memorial Day, as everyone knows in this Chamber, is a very special and important time for Members to be in their home districts to honor our Nation's veterans and the activities that surround that honoring.

This is the second time, I will tell the gentleman from Ohio, who may want to relay this to others in the leadership, that this has happened this Congress. We have tried to work with our colleagues in a civil and bipartisan way the best we can, but there is a deep amount of anger about the way this was handled because it was the second time.

I just want the gentleman and the Republican leadership to know that if we are brought into the process, I will say this once again, we will be fine. We will work with our Republican colleagues; we will try to figure this out the best we can. But if we are treated the way we were treated on the tax reconciliation bill, we will be very, very vigorous next time. We want to make sure that the people in this body who serve and represent literally tens of millions of people in this country, hundreds of millions on our side of the aisle, have the opportunity to participate and to know what is going on. It is not meant as something that is going to happen, but I just want the gentleman to know how strongly we feel about this, and I hope my friend from Ohio will share that with the Speaker, with the other leaders of the gentleman's party; and I will do so, especially when I see them, and have done so when I have talked to them already.

Mr. Speaker, we are very serious about this, and we are trying to do this in a reasonable way; but when we are shut out and we do not have a voice and we are kept guessing the way we were leading up to the Memorial Day

recess, we can play that same game and we can tie this place up and we can create a situation that will be totally unpleasant for everybody else in this Chamber. We prefer not to do that, but we do not want it done to us. I will just leave it at that; and I thank my colleague, and I wish him a very happy and a good weekend.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I appreciate the gentleman's candor, as usual. I will say that there was frustration, of course, on both sides of the aisle with that process; and many Members who waited for those votes and spent the night in their offices probably felt that same frustration. It was the most comprehensive tax legislation in a couple of decades and there were a lot of complications working with the other body, including members of the gentleman's party. But the point is well taken with regard to the frustration.

We, of course, had hoped that we could have kept to a more tight time schedule. It ended up not being possible, given all the complexities of moving the most comprehensive legislation in this area in a generation. But I appreciate the gentleman's comments and, again, his candor, as usual; and I look forward to trying to better work together in the future on these legislative projects.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, June 8, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday

rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M., JUNE 8, 2001, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 2052 FACILITATING FAMINE RELIEF EFFORTS AND A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE WAR IN SUDAN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations have until 5 p.m. tomorrow, June 8, 2001, to file a report to accompany H.R. 2052.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1305

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the name of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) as a cosponsor of H.R. 1305.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 158) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 158

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Government Reform: Mr. Duncan.

Science: Mr. Gilchrest.

Small Business: Mr. Shuster.

Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Ney to rank after Mr. Baker; Mr. Culberson and Mr. Shuster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A FOND FAREWELL TO PAGES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to recently have been named chairman of the Page Board; and one of the official duties is to say good-bye to the current page class, which graduates this Friday, which is tomorrow. So I would like to ask them to come down, I want you to fill in these seats, the first three rows of seats right up here. Come on down.

Mr. Speaker, as a reminder of what we are seeing here, we are seeing 69 pages who hail from throughout the United States and are representative samples of what is good and great and stupendous about America. They are representative of various Members of Congress who have submitted their names. They have endured the arduous year process of actually being employees of the Clerk of the House while attending school, getting to know each other, living together and, as we just heard in the colloquy with the leadership of both sides, the Democrats and Republicans, sometimes enduring very long hours and late nights as they get an opportunity to see the legislative process unfold. Much like sausage, it tastes pretty good, but sometimes the process is something to be desired.

We really appreciate your service; and as I address these comments to the Speaker, he knows also that the work that you do is very important here and the work that you do here is historical. Many things in Washington, D.C. have historical implications. The page class and the operation of pages goes back 200 years. So this is not any fly-by-night operation that just popped up in somebody's mind. Your service has been involved in the founding and the establishment and through the various difficult processes of this constitutional republic, and you have been here with us working and learning and, hopefully, this is not the pinnacle of your career.

Hopefully, this is just one stop along the way that will help you continue to add greatness to this country and greatness to this process and the political system, whether that is being a good citizen, being a concerned voter, diligent on the issues, or being involved in the process. We are going to hear from some of my colleagues who will have greater words of wisdom based upon their experience as maybe former pages who were involved in the process.

But I want you to know that as the chairman of the Page Board that we appreciate your service and we wish you Godspeed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the senior member of the Page Board who has been around for many, many years.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Indeed, I have been a member of the Page Board for many, many years. Tip O'Neill appointed me to the Page Board in, I

think, 1980. I have served as chairman and as ranking minority member. It is interesting, on the Page Board, if I am correct, I think every vote we have ever cast on the Page Board has been unanimous. You really have helped unite us. You serve us so well, and we want to serve you very, very well.

There is a program in this country, a very good program called Close Up, and people come from all over the country and see Congress close up, but no one has seen Congress as close up as you pages. You have seen us at our best and at our worst. We are human beings here. But you have seen something, democracy at work. You have seen us work out things, like the education bill, in a very bipartisan way; you have seen other bills not so bipartisan, but you have seen us work. We all come down here with a valid election certificate. As I say, you have seen us at our best and our worst.

The pages really work on three different kinds of arenas here: on the House floor and all of the environs of the House floor; the school, and it is a great school. A former Congressman, Bill Whitehurst from Virginia, a Republican, and I worked so hard together back in the early 1980s to get the school accredited. It is a great school with a great faculty over there. And your other arena really is the dorm. You do a good job in all three of those arenas. As a matter of fact, this year, the Page Board has not had to really meet really for any serious problem. You are among the best group of pages that I have had the experience of working with since I have been on the Page Board since 1980, and since I have been in Congress since 1977.

But we know that you operate well in all of those arenas, and I hope you operate very well today, because today you took your final test at school, I think it was your math test. I wish you well on that. I was always glad when I got my math test over with; it was one that challenged me the most. But I am so proud of each and every one of you.

I had two sons who were pages, and they later entered the Army and left the Army as captains. One just got his master's degree, MBA, from the University of Michigan about 2 weeks ago; and the other one today, and I am going to fly up there as soon as I leave here, is getting his master's from Harvard.

So this is not the pinnacle, but this is a great step in your life. Put down that you were a page on all your resumes, because it means that you have set goals for yourself. You had to take the means to achieve those goals. You have had to say yes to yourself to certain things; but more importantly, as you grow up and for all of us too, as we continue to grow, you have been able to say no to yourself. Certain things are not proper at a certain stage of one's life or a certain time and certain

things are never proper, but you have learned to say no, and that is part of your growth. I am so very proud of you, as I was proud of my two sons when they served here as pages. I wish you well. Godspeed.

□ 1315

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD the names of the pages.

LIST OF PAGES OF THE 106TH-107TH CONGRESS

Jessica Adams	Sarah Kozel
Narvell Arnold	Jeff Leider
Camille Baldwin	Christina Lemke
Erika Ball	Bradley Loomis
Ashleigh Barker	Claire Markgraf
Erin Baumann	Benjamin Melitz
Jane Bee	Nickolas Mentone
Kristin Blanchet	Brett Moore
Christopher Bohannon	Gregory Muck
Seth Brostoff	Richard Nguyen
Michael Byers	Charzetta Nixon
Ilona Carroll	Amber Polk
Alesia Cheatham	William Pouch
Eric Colleary	Barry Pump
Joshua Cornelissen	Sean Ready
Jason Davis	Jana Reed
Kelly DiBisceglie	Bethany Ruscello
Adam Estes	Julia Sargeant
Jennifer Evans	Kristin Saybe
Lauren Favret	Sarah Schleck
Corey Fitze	Sarah Seipelt
Brian Footer	Brittany Sisk
Dane Genther	Ben Snyder
Ann Grant	Christopher Sprowls
Erin Grundy	Martha Stebbins
Ryan Gualdoni	Paul Stone
Allison Hamil	Ryan Tanner
Leon Harris	Carin Taormino
Ashley Harrison	Robert Terrell
Brian Henry	Chapman Thompson
Christian Huisman	Stephanie Vermeesch
Sarah Hulse	Robert Wehagen
Audra Jones	Sarah Williford
Benjamin Kaiser	Jason Williquette
	Bradley Wilson

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), a new member of the Page Board.

Mrs. WILSON. Madam Speaker, I am a recent addition to the Page Board, so I have not gotten to know this class as well as I probably will get to know the next. But on behalf of the Members of the House, I want to thank all of you very much for your service.

I know some of the nights have been long. Those page runs back and forth between the far corners of Rayburn and Cannon to the floor late at night may have sometimes seemed routine, but in the midst of the routine things here, there is the great work of the Nation going on, and we thank all of you for having been part of it.

I am very much a believer that you learn by doing and that you learn by serving. You all have taken advantage of a wonderful opportunity to come here and go to school, and serve for a year and learn for a year about how our Nation's government works and runs, and sometimes does not run. I hope you have enjoyed the experience, and that you can build on what you have learned here and go back to your communities and continue your service.

For those who may be watching at home and looking to see whether their son or daughter or grandson or granddaughter are here, whether they see their faces here, they know this but many do not, that there are 70 high school juniors that serve here in the Congress every year. They go to school here in the Library of Congress, one of the great monuments to learning and knowledge that this country has. At the same time, they are employees of the House.

You are a very special group of students, and you are all part of a very unusual high school experience which will be part of your lives forever. You will be asked in college and beyond college, what was it like to be a page? And I hope you have some special memories to share with people who ask, particularly young people who ask, because you are now not only graduates of the Page School but role models for others who will follow.

You are a very special group, and I hope you have special memories, special memories beyond the cafeteria food, and special memories that are better than the O'Neill Dorm. You are the last class to endure the dorm in the O'Neill Building.

I hope you have special memories that are more than late nights. I have seen more than a few of you back there in the corner with calculus books and Spanish books trying to prepare for class the next morning at 6:45, when it is far too late in the evening here. But I hope that maybe you have some other special memories of friendships made here, of raising and lowering the flags on this great building, that inspire you to continue to serve this wonderful country.

Many of you probably come from small towns across America. Maybe some of you have never had a chance to travel or to go abroad or to live in a big city before you came here, but I hope that in this last year you have learned that your Nation needs you, that your community needs you, and that there is a nation beyond the towns that you came from that wants you to serve. I want to thank all of you for your time here.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is a lover of the institution and follows the operations of the House, and has a great fondness and affection for the work that you do.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Graduates, I suppose is the appropriate term, of the class of 2001 Page School, congratulations. I am no longer on the Page Board, but I was pleased to hear the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and others say that this has been a model class. I served on the Page Board, and from time to time we had individuals who were perhaps models, but not the kinds

of models we wanted, but they were very, very few.

I am always disappointed that we do not have the networks covering this ceremony, disappointed because the networks will cover tonight and almost every night young people who are not doing positive things, either for themselves, for others, or for their community. You, on the other hand, are doing very, very positive things.

I wish that ABC and NBC and CBS and CNN and all the national networks would cover each and every one of you by name and say, this is Clare and she has done a great job, and then mention each one of you by name.

I was President of the Maryland Senate back in the 1970s, before you were born. I have done so much before you were born that I feel old at these times. But as President of the Maryland Senate, with the Speaker of the Maryland House, we ran the page program.

The page program was not as extensive as this. It was not a year-long program. The Maryland General Assembly meets for 90 days a year. But some of the top students in Maryland from each of the counties were selected to serve 1 week early and 1 week late. It is a 10-week session, actually about a 14-week session, and you get to serve early, when it is not so busy, and you get to serve late, when it is very busy.

You have, of course, gotten the spectrum: a residential program, as was said; going to school a year; and serving on the floor with all of us. You are a critical part of the work process of the House of Representatives. We need you here to do some of the work that you do so that we can facilitate the legislative policymaking process of this House. But much more importantly, in my opinion, you have, as has already been referenced, been given an experience that is relatively unique, that an incredibly small percentage of your age group will ever get.

Our Framers created this House as the people's House, essentially as the bedrock of our democracy, elected every 2 years to be the direct voice of the people of the United States of America, correctly viewed around the world as the most vibrant, vital democracy in the world. What a privilege that is.

It has been said that of those to whom much is given, much is expected. What I try to say to the page classes is that you have been given an opportunity that few others have been given. You know and I know that your parents and friends and others sometimes are pretty negative on the House, the Senate, democracy, Washington, your State capital, your county seat. It is, as Mr. SHIMKUS said, the making of sausage, which is not always pretty.

Therefore, if you are really exposed to it and understand it a little better, and I think you have gotten this, I hope you have gotten it, the Pages that

were in Annapolis, in Maryland, I think got it, you have a much more positive view of how conscientious the Members are who have been selected by their neighbors to come here and represent them, how seriously they take their responsibilities and duties.

Yes, they differ and they argue, and as a result, it can look very contentious, and in fact is, just as are some of the disagreements you have in the dorm or in the classroom or maybe even at home. Now, none of my children, of course, ever had any differences of opinion with me or their mom at home, but perhaps you do. Life tends to be contentious because we have different opinions.

But you have been given an opportunity to see democracy firsthand. I think you have, therefore, a particular responsibility to go home to your parents, to your friends in the community, to your classmates at school, to your classmates as you go on, to the people with whom you will work, to your community at large, and hopefully bring the message back that their democracy does in fact work and they can make a difference.

You have special knowledge. I hope you feel a responsibility to impart that knowledge, that observation, your opinions as to what this institution does and how best it reflects your communities, because that, in my opinion, is the real value of the page program. You are special assets to America with special knowledge, special insight. As some of us have tried to impart that to you, hopefully you in turn will impart it to others.

Congratulations for all you have done, and with high expectations for all that you are going to do, God speed. Thank you.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for his comments. They are always well thought and impassioned.

Madam Speaker, I want to mention that the Pages on a daily basis live, work, and go to school here at the Capitol. Their day begins with school, starting at 6:45 a.m., and ends with the completion of legislative business on the House floor. And as we know, that could be anywhere from 5 o'clock in the afternoon to 5 o'clock the next morning.

By serving as a page throughout the academic year, you have sacrificed your time with your family, friends, school activities, and the like. I think the Speaker ought to know the sacrifices that you do incur.

You are very special to this institution, and you are a wonderful addition because you bring youth, vitality, and energy, and actually help Members understand that there are things that are greater than ourselves; that is, the future of this Nation. And having you here on the floor, it is important for us to see that every day.

There is no one who understands that introduction any more than my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), who is an alumni. You will join the long alumni line, as my colleague has.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I appreciate the opportunity to address this wonderful class of pages here.

I do stand before the House as a former member of the Page Board, but more importantly, as one of the handful of Members of this body who themselves served as a page here in the Congress.

Now, you will have to forgive me. As most of you know, I was a page over in that other body across on the other side of the Capitol. But nonetheless, that experience was one of those formative experiences of my life. I look back on my younger days and I think of experiences that really changed me, and this was one of those experiences.

So I would just make a few comments, and rather than about your service, which others have spoken of and which is so important, rather about the fact that you serve as ambassadors and role models in your communities, which is so important. I would rather speak for a moment about you and what you learn and what you take from this experience, because I think, more than anything else, you have an opportunity to learn something about yourself during the course of this year.

For many, for most, it is probably the first time away from home on an extended period of time. You are here in the Nation's Capital, a great city in which to live and to work and to have the experience of a year.

You had no idea last September when you came who you were going to be rooming with. Here you have been thrust together with people that come from all over the country: from high schools and communities large and small, from little rural farming communities, from large cities in our land. You are placed altogether, and in a very real sense, you are a microcosm of our country because you represent all these different districts of our country.

You have an opportunity in the course of this year to really learn something about yourself: to learn about some of your shortcomings, but you also learn about your endurance and learn about what you can do, and you grow in this process. In the process of growing and of maturing, you become a better person.

You also become a person who can carry, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) said, the message about this program and about the House of Representatives and about your government out into the world as you go forth from here.

□ 1330

So from this experience, you will go back to your schools, finish your high school career. You will go on to colleges. In this group, as I look at them, I know that we are going to have successful Members of the United States Congress, well one or two maybe; but most of you will be businessmen and businesswomen, professionals, lawyers and doctors. Maybe you will be artists. Maybe you will do something that is in no way connected with government or politics.

But you will be citizens of this country; and as citizens of this country, you understand you have a responsibility. You have a responsibility to care about the country, and you have a responsibility to care about those around you.

So if I could urge you to do one thing, it is to maintain the friendships that you have made here, and I think you will find that the most valuable part of this experience. Maintain those friendships, keep that e-mail flowing between each of you, as I know you will be the moment you leave here on Saturday. Keep that e-mail flowing. Keep in touch, come back, get together, join together once in a while, and watch yourselves grow as you go through your professional careers and your fellow classmates go through their professional careers, and you get married, you have families, you have your own children. Probably somebody is going to have a child that will be a page here someday in the not-too-distant future.

So this has been a wonderful experience for you. Yes, we have gotten a lot out of it. You help us a great deal. But most of all, you have an opportunity to learn a great deal about yourselves; and as I have watched you grow during the course of this year, I know you have learned a great deal about yourselves.

So I just want to say thank you. Thank you for what you have done for us. Thank you for the friendship that you extend to us. Thank you for that warm smile you give us when we come on the floor, for the help that you give us every day. Thank you for what you do in your communities with your own families and your own schools. Thank you for the role models that you play in those communities. You are going to continue to do that. I am very grateful to you for it.

I want to say I wish you well. Godspeed. Good luck.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), my friend.

I wanted to mention that I graduated from West Point. It is supposed to be a leadership school. One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was you go through 4 years of interacting with a lot of different people. The advice was, take what you saw, what was good and remember that; and the inter-

actions that you did not think was very good, kind of pledge not to respond that way, not to use that type of a model. Use the good role model.

I think that is sound advice because we all are very diverse individuals who come from diverse backgrounds with diverse personalities. I mention that as an introduction to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) who I am going to ask to come up who I know has a vested interest in taking time out to make sure he talks with you and visits with you and he gets to know you. That is a personal trait that you should emulate. He has been successful, and I know it is from his heart. So I am glad he joined us again.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I, of course, am delighted to be here today, and I do take a special interest in each and every one of you. You never know when you may run for President in the United States, so I may need some help in a lot of different districts. I am just kidding and I would ask that be stricken from the record, because that may appear in my hometown paper as a rather ambitious statement from this gentleman from West Palm Beach, Florida. And having been through the last election, I simply do not want to repeat it, nor cause any more controversy for Palm Beach County.

Kristin, as I walked up, she had tears in her eyes, as many of you do, boys and girls alike, because this is both an exciting day in your life and I am certain a sad one. You came here, and as other classes do, frightened, nervous, excited, scared, confused, bewildered, and yet motivated that you have been selected to be the best and brightest of your hometowns.

Throughout the year, you have had to take some kidding, some grilling, some jokes, and I will not get into it. You all know who have been the subject of my inquiry. I did not know they made boots that size. How much hair gel have you used today, Robert? Ryan was the other one. I did not recognize that color hair when you left here on Friday. I will leave that name off. I did not know you wore an earring. Does your dad know, or mom? No, not really.

Those little things that you did while you were away from home for the year are really incidental to what you have learned and accomplished. You persevered, I am certain, lonely to leave your friends, but knowing you have been given a special chance to serve your country.

I always know when a former page is writing me because they oftentimes do not put a return address on the front of the envelope. They merely sign their name largely on the left-hand margin as Members of Congress appear on the right. That is their franking privilege that they hope will be used in the future.

Some of you are, in fact, ambitious and want to serve in politics, as the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) said. Some of you are already using House stationery.

Christopher, thank you for your note and invitation to the graduation. He signed it "future colleague," Christopher Sprowls from Florida. I am certain Mr. Trandahl, as our fine Clerk, will not get to see that particular note so we cannot charge you with a violation of House rules. But a lot of you get a kick out of the pins and the perks and the privileges.

One of our earlier speakers before the page program began complained a bit about the confusion in the last night of the tax deliberation. Kind of interesting. I do not think I remember seeing any Members around here at 3:00 in the morning, but I do remember quite a few pages.

Aaron, I think, was sleeping in one of the phone booths, as I recall, vigorously pursuing the academic excellence that they have all achieved. I said "Aaron, is it comfortable in there?" I have never tried to sleep in the booth.

I make light because I have to, because otherwise I would cry, too. I have to make these little jokes and little digs at you all because, in my heart, I know it is a sad day because I know you leave us and a new class will come and will repeat the cycle of the page life. At the same time, you never do forget, particularly for me when I first arrived in 1994, those that were in that class that still correspond and still keep in touch.

I have celebrated their graduation from college. I have celebrated their life as they started their occupations, some yet continuing in college, going to law school and other things.

I hope I will be able to get to see the Speaker since Robby is no longer at the desk letting me in as he used to so frequently. "Yes, he is in there, Mr. FOLEY. You can go in now." Thank you, Rob. I always appreciated those courtesies, bud.

But to all of you, congratulations. Congratulations. Obviously I think you are going to miss Ms. Sampson. You are going to miss Mrs. Ivester. You are clearly going to miss Mr. Harroun and Mr. Oliver. I know so many times those beaming faces when those four individuals, and there are others, teachers included, would confront you with one of your latest creative comments or ideas of how to better run the page program of the House.

I know that I speak for the entirety of the House of Representatives that your service here is important. I know at times you felt like runners merely sent to do errands, but you really are a tremendous part of the life on Capitol Hill.

I know Peg is back there in the corner, and she was crying earlier. I witnessed that. In fact, I got a report from

Gay in the front, she said I think Ms. Sampson is crying. So you have got all these friends back here behind you. I know I am not supposed to gesture, but I have to suggest, and I know Jeff Trandahl was with us and is still, the Clerk of the court who has to supervise and maintain operations and good guidance over you.

But God bless you. Good luck. Work hard. Go home and be, not only representatives of this Congress now, but also representatives to inspire in your friends that there is a better way to serve this Nation, that serving in Congress and a free democracy is a joy, a privilege and a pleasure.

I thank you for taking time away from your homes, your families, your loved ones, your boyfriends, girlfriends and classmates to be part of this wonderful, miraculous challenge of being a page.

Willy, good luck. God bless you all. Take care. Thank you.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). I do not know if he did a Freudian slip. He called the Clerk of the House the clerk of the court. Maybe it was probably true for some of his dealings with you all, as I am beginning to understand.

Probably another former alum who probably understands the clerk of the court is probably the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) who I would like to talk about his experience and how it relates to what he is doing now.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, when the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) talks about sometimes it looks like you are just feeling like you are just running errands, that is what we feel some days as Members going back and forth as well. I just wanted to say congratulations and thank you for a job well done over these past few months.

I was a page up here from 1963 to 1967. In those days, you could stay more than 1 year, and I stayed for my complete tenure during high school. The day after 8th grade I started, and the day before I went to college I finished. It paid pretty well in those days. You could live at home, and my family was right across the river in Northern Virginia.

But you learn a lot of things. One is to try to bring some balance to a very busy life, and I hope you have learned something about time management with this. This may confront you throughout your life, in college, in your careers. If you can just take away from here that understanding of how important it is to organize and get things done, it is going to put you in great stead as you move through life.

I hope you have a great appreciation and love of for this institution, which is what I had when I left. Whether you

decide to go into politics or decide to be a refrigerator repairman, it does not make any difference as long as you understand the complexities of government, understand what Members face, what the staffs face and how the system works, it will give you this appreciation, will make you a better citizen.

Maybe it will inspire some of you, from what the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) was saying it already has, to perhaps run for office someday. My appreciation led me to run for office, first at lower levels of government and then finally coming back here as a Member.

You have been here through some very, very interesting times. Think of it, over a 4-year cycle, you are the ones who got to see a change in the Presidency, you got to see the counting of the electoral votes here in the House, and I do not think we had anything since 1877 that is anything close to this, and you got to witness that. You got to see a swearing in of a new Congress and the changes that that brought, passage of some landmark legislation. You have gone through a lot of late nights, some very stressful times and the excitement, the ups and downs that you get in a job like this.

I do not know how many of you spent the night in a phone booth. It is not a very good place. But I can tell you where I come from, Republican Party used to meet in a phone booth. So we are pretty used to that as well.

I just hope that your experience here will inspire you to continue to stay active in government and continue to stay active in helping your fellow citizens. That is ultimately what this is about. This is the way that we give back to our communities and try to make a limited number of dollars to go a long way to help the most people in the community. I hope you will dedicate a good part of your lives to doing that, whether it is in the political or the volunteer or the professional side as you move on.

I want to say, I hope this experience will help you get into the college of your choice next year. It is a nice resume enhancer. Good luck and Godspeed to all of you, and thank you for a job well done.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia. A great representative of what your institution brings to service in this country is the service that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) has done in his time as a Member of Congress.

We are looking forward to you filling some of our shoes in the future. You are our investment in this experiment that we call a constitutional republic. We want to thank you for your service. Now we want you to go out and help make this country a better place.